

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members of the Republican National Committee

**FROM:** Michael S. Steele, Chairman

**DATE:** November 8, 2010

**RE:** Republican gains in state legislatures on November 2<sup>nd</sup>

As of this morning, the results of the 2010 elections for state legislative seats are as follows (States in which Republicans won full or partial control in 2010 are in **BOLD CAPS**; states which will have Republican governors in 2011 are marked with asterisk \*):

### *Republican Control of Both State House and State Senate (25 total, gain of 11)*

<b>ALABAMA*</b>	<b>MINNESOTA</b>	South Carolina*
Arizona*	Missouri	South Dakota*
Florida*	<b>MONTANA</b>	Tennessee*
Georgia*	<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>	Texas*
Idaho*	North Dakota*	Utah*
<b>INDIANA*</b>	<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>	<b>WISCONSIN*</b>
Kansas*	<b>OHIO*</b>	Wyoming*
<b>MAINE*</b>	Oklahoma*	
<b>MICHIGAN*</b>	<b>PENNSYLVANIA*</b>	

### *Republican Control of One Chamber of the State Legislature (5 total, gain of 2)*

Alaska* (House R, Senate even)	Kentucky (Senate R)
<b>COLORADO</b> (House R)	Virginia* (House R)
<b>IOWA*</b> (House R)	

### *Republicans Even in One or More Chambers*

**OREGON** (House even, Senate also may be even pending final returns)

### *Incomplete Results*

New York (House D, Republicans may pull even in Senate)

Washington (House D, Republicans may gain one-seat majority in Senate)

## *Analysis*

Over the last two years, the Republican National Committee has been focused on a single mission: to establish the Republican Party as America's majority party, a status which it has achieved only fleetingly, and by some measures not at all, in the past 80 years. As a result of a tremendous amount of hard work by the members of the RNC and by countless volunteers and supporters across the country, we have taken a dramatic first step towards that goal.

Yet the Republican Party victories in the 2010 elections were not just dramatic, they were historic.

Prior to 2010, in all of American history, no party that suffered losses in consecutive elections as catastrophic as the GOP has in the last two cycles has ever recovered to win a majority in either the U.S. House or Senate in the succeeding election. It had never been done. Yet we did it, and your RNC has done its part to make it happen. We have raised record sums, helped generate record Republican turnout, and fought to make the GOP a national party once again—winning, and winning big, in areas that not only supported Democrats in 2006 and 2008, but for generations before.

By many metrics, GOP victories in the 2010 Congressional elections were the best showing by the Republican Party in generations:

- More Republicans were elected to the House in 2010 than in any election since 1946.
- Republicans picked up more House seats in 2010 than in any election since 1938. (Even that election was less favorable for the GOP: Republicans had been reduced to a mere 88 seats after FDR's 1936 landslide, and their numbers merely rebounded to a small, rather than tiny, minority.)
- Republicans have not won as many House seats en route to taking control from the Democrats since 1894.

As impressive as those achievements are, however, almost certainly **the most dramatic GOP gains were at the state legislative level**, a major focus of the RNC and our state parties. The 2010 elections fundamentally changed the partisan control of state legislatures.

### **Partisan Control of State Legislatures *Prior* to 2010 Elections:**

- Democrats controlled both chambers in 27 states
- Republicans controlled both chambers in 14 states
- Party control was divided in 8 states
- (NE has non-partisan unicameral legislature)

### Partisan Control of State Legislatures After 2010 Elections:

- Republicans will control both chambers in 25 states, **a gain of 11**
  - Democrats will control both chambers in 16 states
  - Party control will be divided in 6 states
  - Party control is not yet clear in 2 states
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- Democrats did not pick up a single state legislature from the GOP.
  - The GOP will **pick up at least 680 state legislative seats**, dramatically exceeding the party's 1994 gains.
  - Overall, the GOP is on track to **hold 54% of the total number of seats**, nearly 4,000 in all—**the most since 1928**.
  - Eleven legislatures came under **full Republican control**: Maine, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Montana, North Carolina and Alabama.
  - Republicans **took over state legislative chambers in virtually every region**—New England (gaining four chambers in a region where the GOP had controlled none—including sweeping Maine for the first time in 50 years), the Mid-Atlantic, South, Midwest, and Mountain West. Even on the Pacific Coast, the GOP overcame a 12-seat deficit to draw even in the Oregon House, and still may draw even in the Oregon Senate as well; in Washington state, Republicans still may claim control of the Senate after having had been down 13 seats .
  - In many cases, the swing in legislative seats was huge. In Minnesota, for example, what had been an 87-47 Democrat margin in the House swung to a 10-seat GOP majority, and a 46-21 Democrat margin in the Senate became a 7-seat GOP majority.
  - In Alabama and North Carolina, Republicans won both chambers of the legislatures for the first time **in more than a century**.
  - Republicans now have 20 state "trifectas", that is, states which have a Republican governor and in which the GOP has a majority in both the senate and the lower legislative chamber. Democrats only have 9 such "trifectas".
  - As a result of the 2010 elections, Republicans will control 27 senates and 29 lower house chambers. The Democrats will control 19 senates and 19 lower house chambers.
  - One senate (Alaska) and one lower house (Oregon) are tied. Partisan control of three senates (New York, Oregon, and Washington) is undecided.

## ***Redistricting***

As every political observer is keenly aware, the partisan composition of state legislatures will be particularly critical over the next two years because of the pending redistricting for federal, state, and local offices in the wake of the recently completed decennial census.

Viewed in the context of redistricting, the Republican legislative gains are even more impressive.

Not only did the GOP make huge gains in legislative seats, but the party is now particularly well-positioned in those states which are most likely to gain or lose seats in the coming Congressional reapportionment, where states necessarily will do the most to realign their delegations.

Also, the success of a ballot initiative in California will take redistricting out of the hands of that state's governor and state legislature, thus reducing the number of Congressional seats in which Democrats control the redistricting process nationally by more than a third. On Election Day, California voters passed Proposition 20 with over 60 percent of the vote, giving the citizen commission established in 2008 responsibility for Congressional redistricting as well as state legislative redistricting. Proposition 27, a measure advocated by Nancy Pelosi and supported by the Democratic party which would have dismantled the commission and returned redistricting to the legislature, was soundly defeated. (Two redistricting initiatives also passed in Florida which established redistricting criteria similar to those which are already law in some states, but the Florida legislature still will control the process.)

Final census data will be reported in the coming months. However, based on interim census data compiled through 2009, it appears that 23 states may gain or lose Congressional seats. Of those, three states are projected to gain or lose more than one seat. In one of the three, Arizona, a commission controls redistricting. In the other *two*, redistricting will be controlled by a ***Republican governor and Republican legislature***:

Texas (projected gain of +4)  
Ohio (-2)

Of the 20 states which may gain or lose one seat, ***Republicans*** will control the redistricting process in ***seven states***:

Florida (+1)  
Georgia (+1)  
South Carolina (+1)  
Utah (+1)  
Michigan (-1)  
Pennsylvania (-1)

Wisconsin (-1)

**Democrats** will control redistricting in at least two states projected to possibly lose one seat:

Illinois (-1)

Massachusetts (-1)

Assuming the approximately 8,000 vote Democrat lead in the Minnesota gubernatorial race holds up after a recount (if not, Minnesota also would be under full Republican control), party control will be divided in six states which may gain or lose one Congressional seat:

Nevada (+1)

North Carolina (+1)

Oregon (+1)

Iowa (-1)

Louisiana (-1)

Minnesota (-1)

Partisan control is yet to be determined in the New York State Senate, where Republicans still may gain a tie. If that chamber is held by the Democrats, that party will control the redistricting process.

Finally, redistricting will be conducted by an *independent commission* in five states which may gain or lose Congressional seats, including California, which may lose a seat for the first time since statehood:

Arizona (+2)

California (-1)

Missouri (-1)

New Jersey (-1)

Washington (+1)

Counting all states, not just those projected to gain or lose seats in the pending Congressional reapportionment, party control of the redistricting process breaks down approximately as follows, pending final allocation of seats to each state based on final census data:

**193** Congressional District lines will be drawn by **Republicans**

**44** Congressional District lines will be drawn by **Democrats**

**103** Congressional District lines will be drawn by **Split Partisan Control**

**88** Congressional District lines will be drawn by **Commissions**

**7** Congressional Districts will remain At-Large and unaffected by redistricting

These totals reflect that the fact that state law in both Maine and Connecticut requires a two-thirds vote to approve redistricting. Therefore, though Maine will have a Republican governor and legislature and Connecticut will have a Democrat governor and legislature, the redistricting process in both states effectively will be under split control.

The totals above also are based on the assumption that control of the New York State Senate will be split. If final election results determine that Democrats retain control of that chamber, Democrats will draw the lines for 72 Congressional seats, and 75 seats will be drawn in states with split partisan control.

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Again, congratulations on the Republican Party's historic victories in the 2010 elections, and thank you for all the hard work each of you have done to make those victories possible. Without your efforts, none of our success would have been possible.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me or Tom Hofeller of the RNC staff.